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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 81395-157

First Inventor or Application Identifier Mahan et al.

Title METHOD, APPARATUS...MULTIMEDIA CONTENT

Express Mail Label No.

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 18]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the invention
 - Brief Summary of the invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 5]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]
 - a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
 - i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

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5. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
8. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee)
9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
10. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
11. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
12. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
13. ☐ * Small Entity Statement(s) ☐ Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired (PTO/SB/09-12)
14. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
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☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: _____/_____

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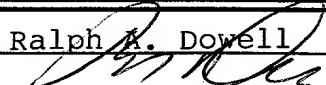
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Name (Print/Type)	Ralph A. Dowell	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	26,868
Signature		Date	31 Mar 00

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**METHOD, APPARATUS, PROCESSOR-READABLE MEDIA AND SIGNALS
FOR ACQUIRING AND PRESENTING ACQUIRED
MULTIMEDIA CONTENT**

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 5 This invention relates to methods, apparatus, processor-readable media and signals for producing multimedia presentations and more particularly to acquiring and presenting acquired multimedia content.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- 10 With the advent of the internet, computer users have been given access to a vast quantity of information. Much of this information is provided to users as multimedia content such as sound, graphics, text, etc, in the form of Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) files, graphics files such as JPEG and/or GIF files, or PDF files, for example. These types of files are typically received at a user's computer through a browser running at the computer.
- 15 A browser, such as provided by Netscape facilitates access to content on the world wide web and even provides a history of websites visited, at which content may be found. The history usually lists URLs of websites visited, but is not necessarily a list of websites of interest to a user, since a user must typically surf through a plurality of websites to reach one of interest.
- 20 Bookmarks provide a way in which a user can identify URLs of websites of interest, however, no content is stored in association with bookmarks, other than that stored in cache. Furthermore, bookmarks are cumulative in that they generally do not specify websites of interest during an internet session, but rather specify websites of interest from all sessions conducted by a user.
- 25 Also, bookmarks specify web resources at which content may be found and require that the user be on-line in order to access the content specified by the bookmark.

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Cache memory is used by browsers to store content of all websites visited over a period of time, to facilitate fast re-access of website content, when surfing forward and back through a plurality of websites. Thus, a plurality of desired and undesired multimedia content may be stored in cache memory, with no indications as to which is desired and which is undesired. Cache memory is usually loaded with content which is rarely, if ever accessed again by a user. Consequently, content stored in cache memory is typically discarded after some preset period of time to prevent the amount of memory devoted to caching from growing excessively. Thus content to be stored in cache memory is generally not selectable as being desirable or undesirable by a user and is variable in time. Content can, however, be saved manually as source or text, however, this creates individual, non-linked files with no specified order of retrieval, which makes it difficult to recall files for use in a presentation.

Thus, neither history, bookmarks, cache memory, nor manual saving used by a browser facilitate easy storage of content specifically selected by a user as being desirable for later retrieval as a presentation. What would be desirable is a simple way for a user to identify and store multimedia content such as may be obtained from the world wide web, for later retrieval in which only the content identified as being desirable by the user is presented, and is presented in an order specified by the user. If such retrieval could occur offline, it could be used in a presentation, for example.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention addresses the above need by providing a method and apparatus and processor-readable medium and signals for building a presentation by receiving user input identifying multimedia content to be included in the presentation and copying multimedia content identified by user-input, from a multimedia source to memory, for access by a presentation application. This facilitates the creation of a permanent presentation folder or

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presentation file of multimedia content and an index of acquired content, while surfing the world wide web.

5 In one embodiment the method and apparatus, medium and signals facilitate copying multimedia content from an application while such application is using the multimedia content. The method and apparatus may facilitate using a multimedia content application such as a browser to access multimedia content and to make such multimedia content selectable by a user for copying to a presentation file while concurrently running the multimedia content application.

10 In one embodiment the method and apparatus, medium and signals involve associating an identifier such as a uniform resource locator with stored multimedia content, for access by the presentation application. Such uniform resource locator may be identified by an application such as a browser through which the multimedia content is received.

15 In one embodiment the method and apparatus, medium and signals facilitate associating user-definable notes with desired multimedia content, for use by the presentation application.

20 To organize captured multimedia content, the method and apparatus, codes and signals may involve producing a multimedia content record accessible by the presentation application, the multimedia content record including a link to the multimedia content in memory.

25 In accordance with another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method, apparatus, processor-readable medium and signals for providing a presentation by identifying multimedia content previously identified by a user as to be included in the presentation and by accessing and presenting at least some multimedia content previously identified by the user.

Other aspects and features of the present invention will become apparent to those ordinarily skilled in the art upon review of the following description of

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specific embodiments of the invention in conjunction with the accompanying figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In drawings which illustrate embodiments of the invention,

- 5 Figure 1 is a block diagram of an apparatus for acquiring multimedia content according to a first embodiment of the invention;
- Figure 2 is a schematic representation of an applet according to a first embodiment of the invention;
- 10 Figure 3 is a schematic diagram of a folder structure produced by codes, in accordance with the first embodiment of the invention;
- Figure 4 is a flow chart representing blocks of code for carrying out a method of acquiring multimedia content according to the first embodiment of the invention;
- 15 Figure 5 is a schematic representation of a browser window in which a concurrent window produced by codes according to the first embodiment of the invention is produced;
- Figure 6 is a schematic representation of a presentation window according to the first embodiment of the invention;
- 20 Figure 7 is a flow chart of a copy function executed by codes according to the first embodiment of the invention;
- Figure 8 is a schematic representation of a content record shown in Figure 2; and
- Figure 9 is a flowchart of a presentation application, according to a second aspect of the invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

As shown in Figure 1, an apparatus for acquiring multimedia content according to a first embodiment of the invention is shown generally at 10. The apparatus includes a computer 12 having a processor 14 in communication with a network 16, such as the world wide web 18. The computer includes memory media such as a hard disk drive 20, which is accessible by the processor 14 and which may be programmed with browser program codes operable to direct the processor 14 to run a browser for browsing resources identified by uniform resource locators (URLs) on the world wide web. The processor 14 is further programmed with codes according to one embodiment of the invention, which direct the processor 14 to receive user input identifying multimedia content to be included in a presentation and to copy multimedia content identified by such user-input, from a source to memory, for access by a presentation application. The multimedia content identified and copied to memory preferably includes content viewed in a window of the browser. Thus, the user can use the browser to surf the world wide web to locations of interest and when such a location is addressed, the user can specify that it is desired to copy the multimedia content of the currently addressed location or content associated with the currently addressed location to a presentation storage area in memory, for later retrieval by a presentation application.

The specific way in which this is achieved may be accomplished by providing computer readable instructions to the processor 14 through any of various media such as a floppy disk 22, a CD-ROM 24, a tape drive 26, a communications interface 28 or any other method by which computer readable codes may be made to direct the processor 14 to execute instructions. Preferably, such instructions are provided to the processor in the form of a web-based applet shown generally at 11 in Figure 2, that users can access and download from a website, through conventional hard-wired communications services or through wireless communications services, where the applet may be encoded in signal segments of a signal embodied in

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a carrier-wave, for example. The applet may be an Active-x™ or Javabeans™ plugin to a web browser, for example, and may be used with any web browser at any web location.

Referring to Figure 1, the applet 11 may be received from the world wide web 18, through the communications interface 28, and stored by the processor 14 in the hard disk drive 20. The user may be given the option to load the applet, in which case the applet 11 registers itself with the browser, in a conventional manner and as shown in Figure 3, sets up a presentations folder 21, having presentation subfolders 23, 25, etc., each of which may be used to store multimedia content and a respective presentation file 27 and 29 in which a plurality multimedia content records 31 may be stored.

Referring to Figure 2, the applet 11 preferably includes a first block of codes 13 for providing processor-readable presentation builder instructions for directing the processor to receive user input identifying multimedia content to be included in a presentation and to copy multimedia content identified by such user input from a source to memory for access by a presentation application. The applet 11 preferably further includes a second block of codes 15 for providing processor-readable presentation application instructions for directing the processor to provide a presentation by identifying multimedia content previously identified by a user as to be included in a presentation and by accessing and presenting at least some of the multimedia content previously identified by a user.

Referring to Figure 4, the core functionality of the presentation builder instructions 13 may include a first block of codes 30 which directs the processor to detect user activation of the presentation builder instructions 13. To effect such activation, these instructions may be accessed through an icon, for example, placed on a toolbar of the browser, or desktop, for example.

Still referring to Figure 4, the presentation builder instructions 13 may further include a block of codes 32 which directs the processor to create and minimize a concurrent window, which produces a tab 41 on a tab bar of the

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user's graphical user interface, as shown in Figure 5, and which establishes communications with the user's browser to receive a URL currently addressed by the browser.

5 Referring back to Figure 4, the presentation builder instructions 13 include a further block of codes 36 which directs the processor to detect user selection of the presentation window. This may be done by the user operating a user input device such as a mouse, to the tab 41 and activating the presentation window to produce a display as shown generally at 33 in Figure 6. Referring to Figures 4 and 6, upon selection of the presentation window 33, block 38
10 directs the processor to display in a preview window 34 the page currently addressed by the browser, while simultaneously displaying a page identification such as a URL of the page, as indicated at 35, and while simultaneously displaying a text box 37 for receiving user-inputted text, such as user-definable notes, and associating same with the multimedia content shown in the preview window. A plurality of preview windows may be
15 displayed to show previously acquired content, for example.

Referring back to Figure 4, the presentation builder instructions 13 further include a user selection portion shown generally at 40 which determines whether a user has selected particular multimedia content to be included in
20 the presentation. In this embodiment, this portion includes a block 44 which detects user activation of a save button 39 on the presentation window to cause the page currently addressed by the browser to be added to the presentation file.

25 After activation of the save button 39, block 48 directs the processor to copy the currently selected multimedia content into the presentation subfolder 23 in memory, such as the hard disk drive 20 shown in Figure 1, while the browser is displaying or using the same multimedia content.

Referring to Figures 3 and 7, to effect such copying, the presentation builder instructions 13 include a first block of codes 47 which causes the processor to
30 create a content record 31 in the presentation file 27, the content record 31

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having a format as shown in Figure 8. This format includes an ID field 56, a memory index field 58, and a notes field 59. Referring back to Figure 7, block 52 then directs the processor to copy the multimedia content addressed by the browser into the presentation subfolder and to store a memory index to the content, in the memory index field 58 of the content record 31. Block 53 then directs the processor to load the ID field 56 with the URL from which the multimedia content was just copied (as identified by the browser) and to load the notes field 59 with the contents of the text box 37.

It will be appreciated that any given HTML page may include a plurality of multimedia content and in this regard such content may include images, for example. Consequently, referring back to Figure 7, the applet includes a block 60 which directs the processor to parse the HTML page for tags and to load the content from URLs associated with such tags into the presentation folder.

Alternatively, or in addition, the HTML page source may be parsed for <aiff> and/or <wav> tags to load content from URLs associated with these or other sound content tags.

In general, on locating a multimedia tag, the processor retrieves the associated multimedia source code, which may be text, a graphics image or sound file, for example, from the URL specified by the multimedia tag and stores the multimedia content identified thereby in the same folder as the HTML page from which it was addressed, in the presentation file 27.

Or if the current viewed content is in the form of a .pdf file, such .pdf file may be stored as a separate content file in the presentation subfolder 23, with a corresponding content record 31 in the presentation file 27.

Alternatively, multimedia source content of the type described above may be appended as a content segment to a single content file and identifications of specific content segments and corresponding indices thereto may be stored in the ID field 56 and the memory index field 58 respectively of a content record

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54. The single presentation file may be produced in a format compatible with the POWERPOINT™ program available from Microsoft Corporation of Washington, USA, for example. Or, the single presentation file may be stored in an Adobe ACROBAT™ (.pdf) file format, for example.

5 In the above manner, a user can create a permanent presentation folder or presentation file of multimedia content and an index of acquired content, while surfing the world wide web. In other words, the user can use the browser to surf the world wide web to locations of interest and when such a location is addressed, the user can specify that it is desired to copy the multimedia
10 content of the currently addressed location or content associated with the currently addressed location to a presentation storage area in memory, for later retrieval by a presentation application.

Referring back to Figure 2, the presentation application instructions 15 may provide blocks of codes which direct the processor to identify multimedia
15 content previously identified by a user as to be included in a presentation and to access and present at least some of the multimedia content previously identified by the user. The previously identified multimedia content is that which has been stored in the presentation folder.

In particular, referring to Figure 9, the presentation application instructions 15
20 may include a block of instructions which direct the processor to read a selected presentation file 27 and address a first content record of the selected presentation file 27.

Block 72 then directs the processor to display the multimedia content addressed by the memory index field 58 of the content record 54. If the
25 multimedia content is in a browser-compatible format, the browser is invoked to view the content. Or if the multimedia content is in a .pdf format, an Adobe ACROBAT Reader™ is invoked to view the content. Or if the multimedia content is stored in a format compatible with Microsoft POWERPOINT™, that program is invoked to view the content.

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Referring back to Figure 8, effectively block 74 directs the processor to provide to a viewing application, which may include a browser, a POWERPOINT™ program or a .pdf file reader multimedia content identified by the contents of the memory index field 58 associated with the currently addressed record. In general, the viewing application displays the multimedia content or otherwise presents multimedia content addressed by the contents of the memory index field 58 to the user. Block 76 then directs the processor to determine whether the last record in the presentation file has been addressed, and if it has, block 78 directs the processor to prompt the user for input on what to do next. Otherwise, if the last record has not been addressed, block 80 directs the processor to address the next content record of the selected presentation file and to resume processing at block 74.

The act of addressing the next content record of the selected presentation file may be performed automatically, such as after a predetermined time, or on command of a user, in response to user input, for example. Using the automatic addressing method, a timer may be employed to display or otherwise provide to the user the multimedia content addressed by the contents of the memory index field 58 for a period of time, before presenting the multimedia content identified by the contents of the memory index field 58 of the next addressed content record. Thus, an automated presentation can be produced. Furthermore, since the contents of the memory index field 58 may always refer to a resource at the user's computer, there is no need to be in communication with the world wide web to view a presentation.

Alternatively, it will be appreciated that the contents of the memory index field may be used to address separate locations within a single multimedia content file to which multimedia content segments have been appended as described above. This may be the case, for example, where the viewing application is the POWERPOINT™ program provided by Microsoft. In this case, each multimedia content segment identified by a respective memory index field 58 may corresponding to a separate "slide" within a POWERPOINT™ presentation.

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While specific embodiments of the invention have been described and illustrated, such embodiments should be considered illustrative of the invention only and not as limiting the invention as construed in accordance with the accompanying claims.

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What is claimed is:

1. A method of building a presentation, the method comprising:
 - a) receiving user input identifying multimedia content to be included in said presentation; and
 - 5 b) copying multimedia content identified by said user-input from a multimedia source to memory, for access by a presentation application.
- 10 2. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein copying comprises copying said multimedia content from an application while said application is using said multimedia content.
3. The method claimed in claim 1 further comprising associating an identifier with said multimedia content, for access by the presentation application.
- 15 4. The method claimed in claim 3 wherein associating an identifier comprises associating a uniform resource locator with said multimedia content.
5. The method claimed in claim 4 wherein associating an identifier comprises associating with said multimedia content a uniform resource locator identified by an application using said multimedia content.
- 20 6. The method claimed in claim 1 further comprising associating user-definable notes with said multimedia content, for use by the presentation application.
7. The method claimed in claim 1 further comprising producing a multimedia content record accessible by the presentation application,

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said multimedia content record including a link to said multimedia content in said memory.

- 5
8. The method claimed in claim 7 further comprising producing said multimedia content record such that it includes an identifier associated with said multimedia content.
9. The method claimed in claim 1 further comprising executing the steps recited in claim 1 while concurrently running a multimedia content application.
- 10
10. The method claimed in claim 9 further comprising using said multimedia content application to access multimedia content selectable by a user for copying as recited in claim 1.
11. A method of providing a presentation comprising:
- 15
- a) identifying multimedia content previously identified by a user as to be included in said presentation; and
- b) accessing and presenting at least some of said multimedia content previously identified by the user.
12. The method claimed in claim 11 wherein presenting comprises directing a viewing application to said multimedia content previously identified by the user.
- 20
13. The method claimed in claim 12 further comprising automatically directing said viewing application to said multimedia content previously identified by the user.
14. A computer-readable medium for providing processor-readable instructions for directing a processor circuit to:

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- a) receive user input identifying multimedia content to be included in said presentation; and
- b) copy multimedia content identified by said user-input from a multimedia source to memory, for access by a presentation application.

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15. A signal embodied in a carrier wave, said signal comprising:

- a) a first code segment for directing a processor circuit to receive user input identifying multimedia content to be included in said presentation; and
- b) a second code segment for directing a processor circuit to copy multimedia content identified by said user-input from a multimedia source to memory, for access by a presentation application.

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16. An apparatus for building a presentation, the apparatus comprising:

- a) means for receiving user input identifying multimedia content to be included in said presentation; and
- b) means for copying multimedia content identified by said user-input from a multimedia source to memory, for access by a presentation application.

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17. An apparatus for building a presentation, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a receiver operable to receive user input identifying multimedia content to be included in said presentation; and
- b) a copying device for copying multimedia content identified by said user-input from a multimedia source to memory, for access by a presentation application.

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18. The apparatus claimed in claim 17 wherein said copying device comprises a processor circuit programmed to copy said multimedia content from an application running on said processor circuit while said application is using said multimedia content.
- 5 19. The apparatus claimed in claim 17 further comprising a processor circuit programmed to associate an identifier with said multimedia content, for access by the presentation application.
20. The apparatus claimed in claim 19 wherein said processor circuit is programmed to associate a uniform resource locator with said multimedia content.
- 10 21. The apparatus claimed in claim 20 wherein said processor circuit is programmed to associate with said multimedia content a uniform resource locator identified by an application using said multimedia content and running on said processor circuit.
- 15 22. The apparatus claimed in claim 17 further comprising a processor circuit programmed to associate user-definable notes with said multimedia content, for use by the presentation application.
- 20 23. The apparatus claimed in claim 17 further comprising a processor circuit programmed to produce a multimedia content record accessible by the presentation application, said multimedia content record including a link to said multimedia content in said memory.
24. The apparatus claimed in claim 23 wherein said processor circuit is programmed to produce said multimedia content record such that it includes an identifier associated with said multimedia content.
- 25 25. The apparatus claimed in claim 17 wherein said receiver and said copying device are provided by a processor circuit programmed to concurrently run a multimedia content application.

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- 5 26. The apparatus claimed in claim 25 wherein said processor circuit is programmed to use said multimedia content application to access multimedia content selectable by a user.
27. A computer-readable medium for providing processor-readable instructions for directing a processor circuit to:
- a) identify multimedia content previously identified by a user as to be included in said presentation; and
 - b) access and present at least some of said multimedia content previously identified by the user.
- 10 28. A signal embodied in a carrier wave, said signal comprising:
- a) a first code segment for directing a processor circuit to identify multimedia content previously identified by a user as to be included in said presentation; and
 - b) a second code segment for directing a processor circuit to access and present at least some of said multimedia content previously identified by the user.
- 15 29. An apparatus for providing a presentation, the apparatus comprising:
- a) means for identifying multimedia content previously identified by a user as to be included in said presentation; and
 - b) means for accessing and presenting at least some of said multimedia content previously identified by the user.
- 20 30. An apparatus for providing a presentation, the apparatus comprising a processor programmed to identify multimedia content previously identified by a user as to be included in said presentation and access

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and present at least some of said multimedia content previously identified by the user.

31. The apparatus claimed in claim 30 wherein said processor circuit is programmed to direct a viewing application to said multimedia contact previously identified by the user.

5

32. The apparatus claimed in claim 31 wherein said processor circuit is programmed to automatically direct said viewing application to said multimedia content previously identified by the user.

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The present invention provides a method, apparatus, processor-readable medium and signals for building a presentation by receiving user input identifying multimedia content to be included in a presentation and copying multimedia content identified by such user-input from a multimedia source to memory, for access by a presentation application. Copying may involve copying multimedia content from an application while the application is using the multimedia content. There is also provided a method, apparatus, processor-readable medium and signals for providing a presentation by identifying multimedia content previously identified by a user as to be included in the presentation and accessing and presenting at least some of the multimedia content previously identified by the user.

[illegible]

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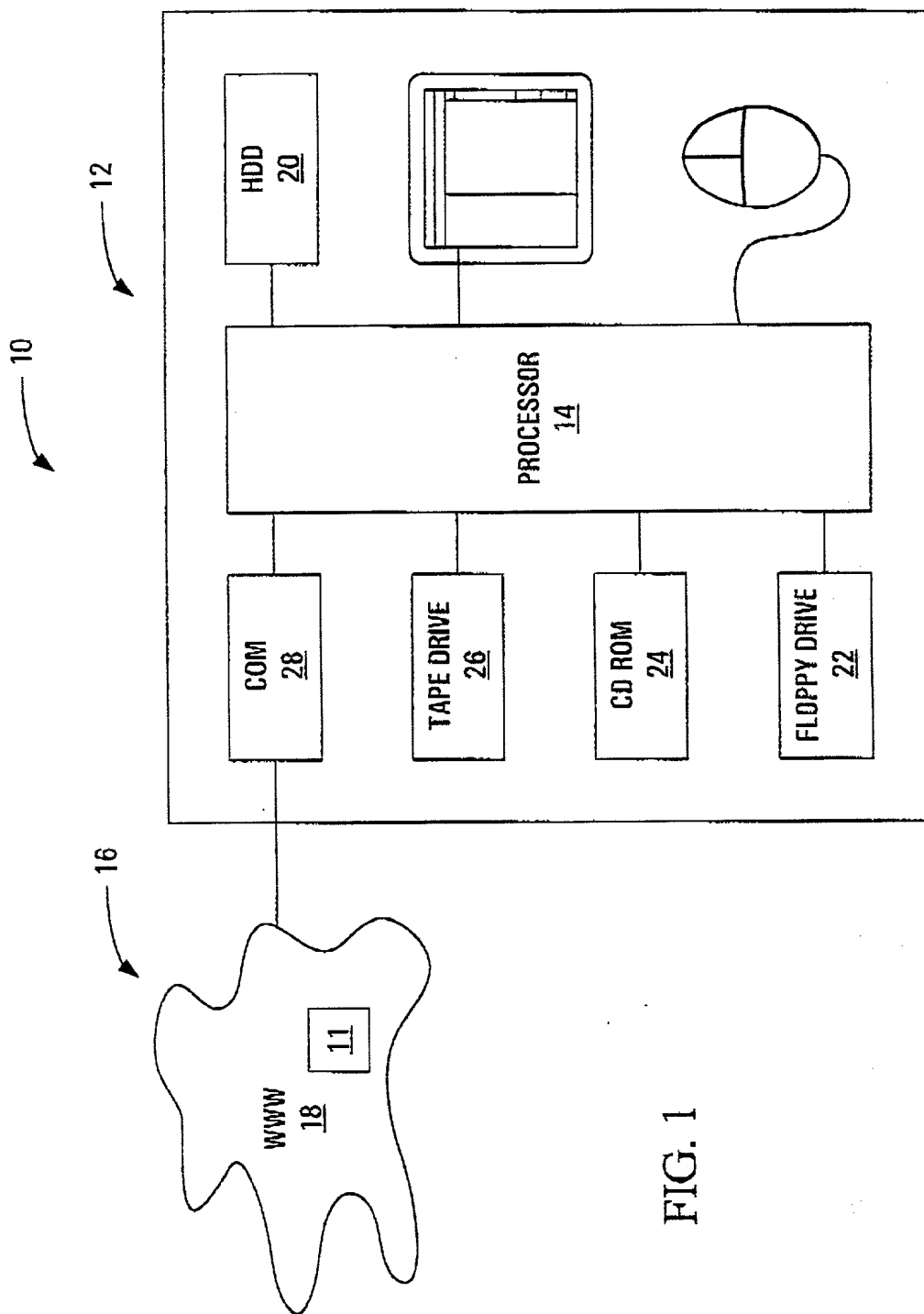


FIG. 1

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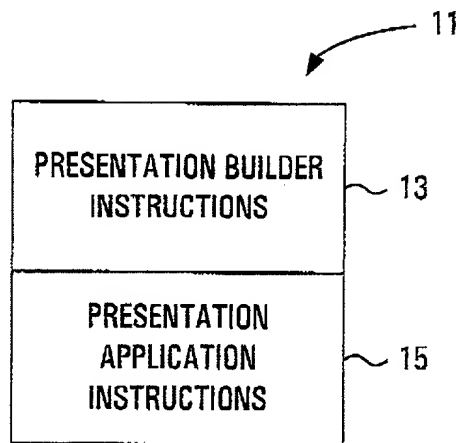


FIG. 2

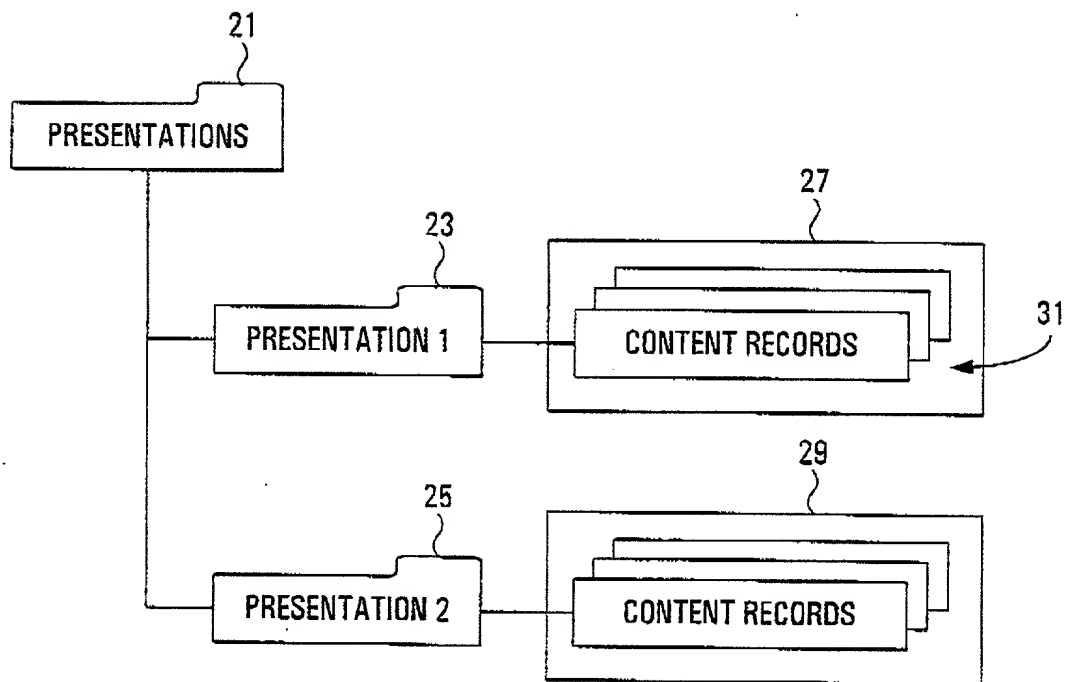
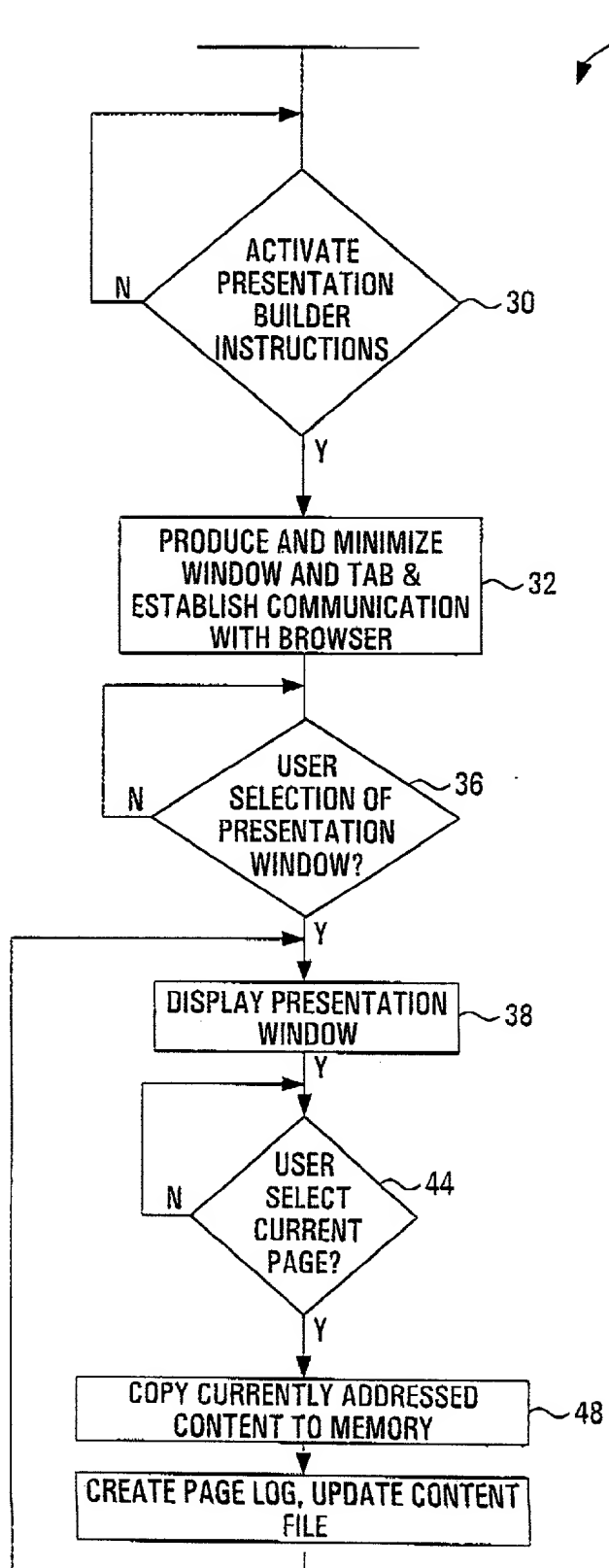
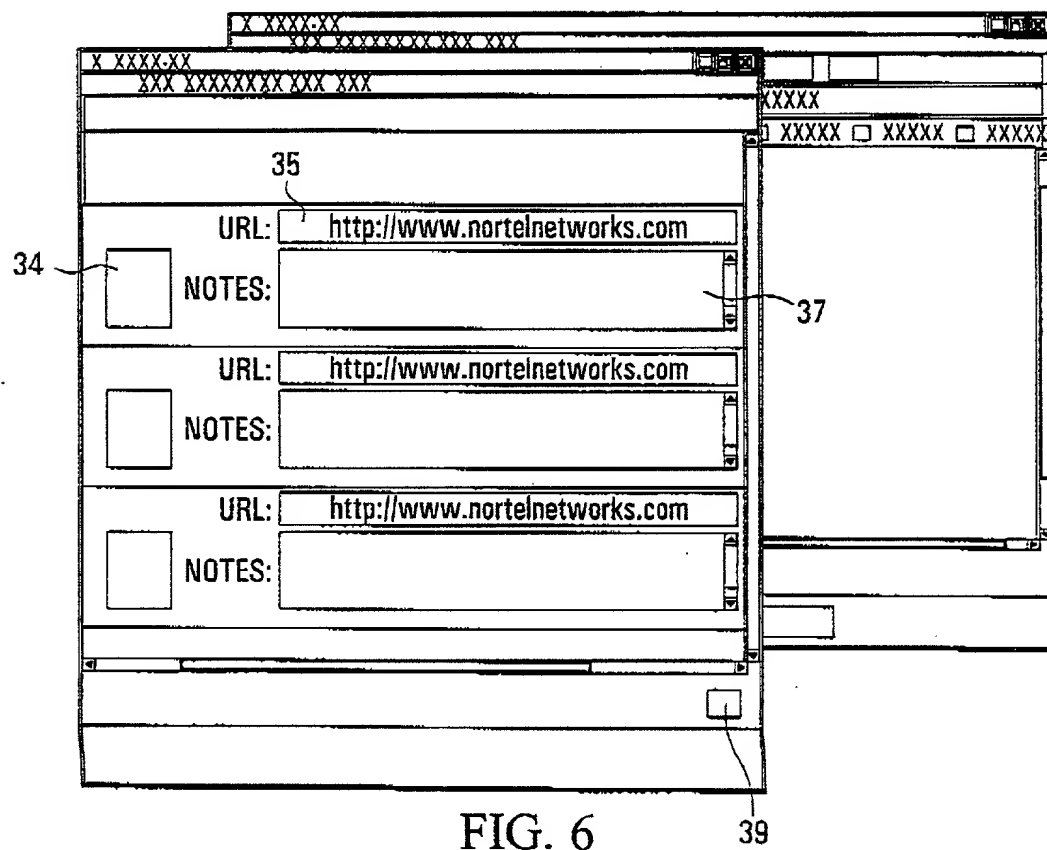
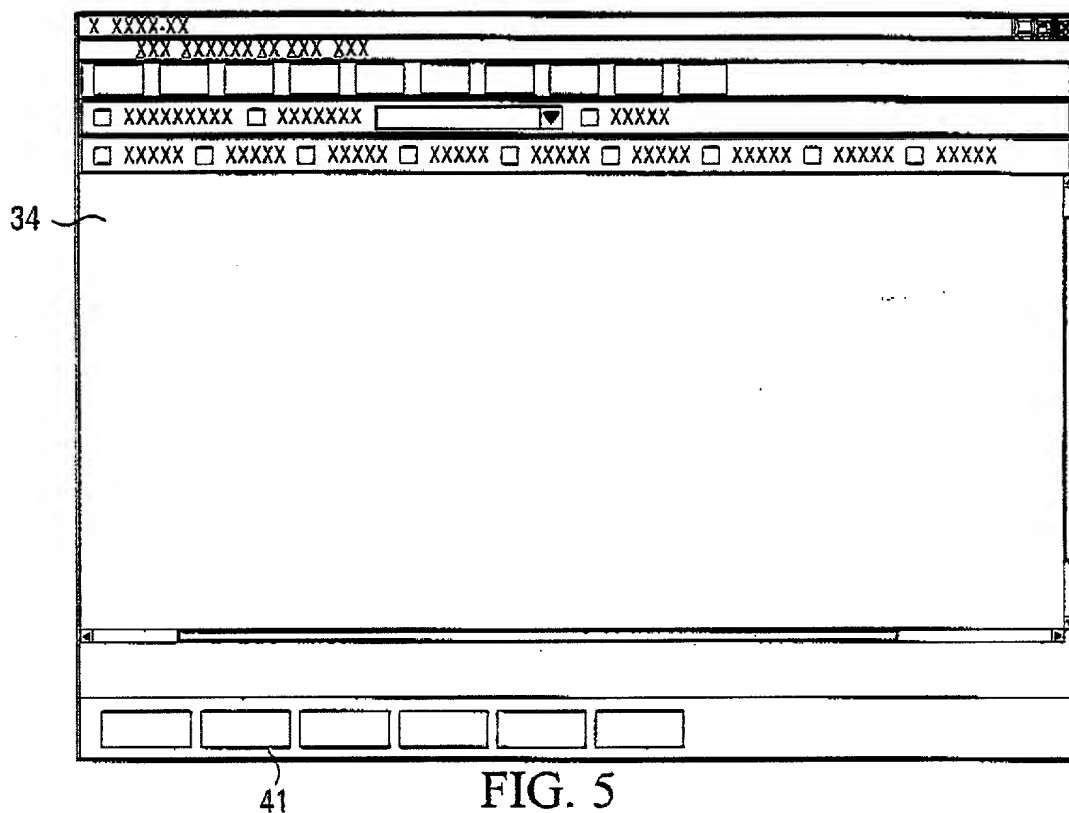


FIG. 3

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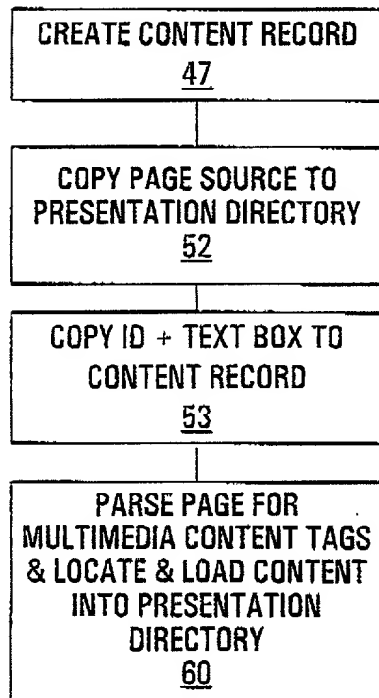


FIG. 7

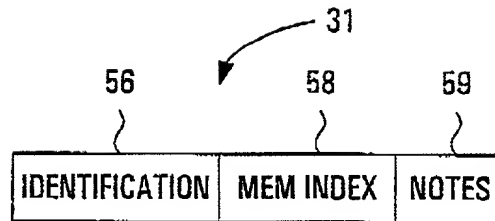


FIG. 8

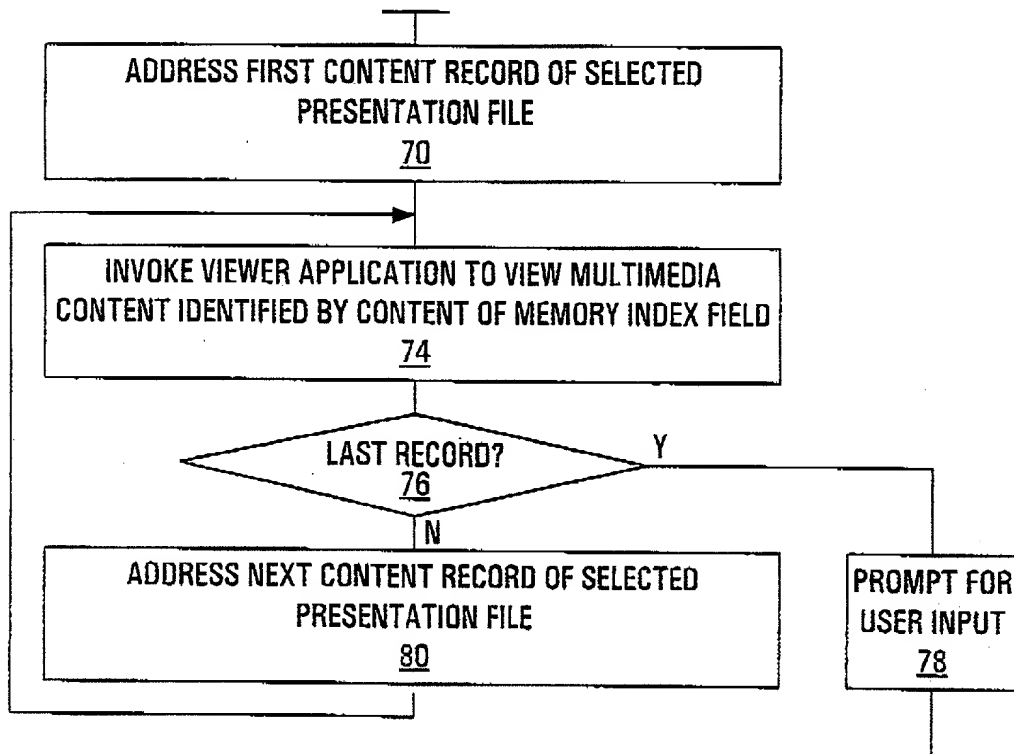


FIG. 9

Docket No. 81395-157

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below beneath my name,

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor [if only one name is listed below] or an original, first and joint inventor [if plural names are listed below] of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

METHOD, APPARATUS, PROCESSOR-READABLE MEDIA AND SIGNALS FOR ACQUIRING AND PRESENTING ACQUIRED MULTIMEDIA CONTENT

the specification of which [check one]

☒ is attached hereto

☐ was filed on as Application Serial No.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56(a).

"(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by Section 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application,
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative

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to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability."

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 and/or §365 of any foreign application[s] for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate filed by me or my assignee disclosing the subject matter claimed in this application and having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which priority is claimed, or (2) if no priority claimed, before the filing of this application:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION[S]

Priority Claimed

[Number]	[Country]	[Day/Month/Year filed]
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application[s] listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

[Application Serial No.]	[Filing Date]	[Status: patented, pending, abandoned]
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POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint as my attorneys and/or agents, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

J. Christopher Robinson, Reg. No. 35,772; John W. Knox, Reg. No. 35,776; Neil S. Clark, Reg. No. 37,524; and Brian G. Kingwell, Reg. No. 39,482 of the firm Smart & Biggar.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

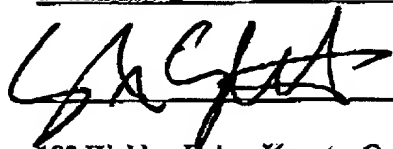
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